

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
March 19, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham Presiding

Present: Council Member Roxanne M. Burns
Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.
Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso
Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith
Mayor Graham

Also Present: Mary M. Corriveau, City Manager
Robert J. Slye, City Attorney

City staff present: Ken Mix, Elliott Nelson

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Approving Agreement with Systems Development Group for Continuing Image Mate Online Assessment Software Support
- Resolution No. 2 - Approving Agreement of Lease Between the City of Watertown and the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc.
- Resolution No. 3 - Amendment to Lease Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Greater Watertown Red and Black, Inc.
- Resolution No. 4 - Authorizing Sale of Real Property, Known as 333 Kendall Avenue North to Jefferson County, 175 Arsenal Street, Watertown, New York 13601
- Resolution No. 5 - Authorizing Sale of Real Property, Known as 334 Kendall Avenue North to Jefferson County, 175 Arsenal Street, Watertown, New York 13601
- Resolution No. 6 - Authorizing Sale of Real Property, Known as 335 Clover Street to Jefferson County, 175 Arsenal Street, Watertown, New York 13601
- Ordinance No. 1 - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of Hydroelectric Facilities and Related Properties Along the Black River to Waterfront District in Order to Implement the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
- Public Hearing - Local Law No. 1 of 2012 – Amending City Charter of the City of Watertown, Title VII, Departments of Water; Electric Light and Power, and Section 301 of the City Code of the City of Watertown Water
- 2012 CDBG Small Cities Application Public Hearings
- History of Advantage Watertown
- NYS Legislature Approves, NYS Retirement system Tier VI Pension Plan
- Sales Tax Revenue – February 2012
- 2012-2012 CAPC City Budget Request
- Executive Session - Collective bargaining negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law.

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 5, 2012 and adjourned meeting of March 12, 2012 was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith, seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received from Hattie Harris Good Spirits Club International declaring April 25, 2012 as National Thank You Day for Elected Officials in the United States of America. Enclosed with the letter was a Proclamation of Appreciation for the Watertown City Council. **Above communication was placed on file in the office of the City Clerk.**

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one addressed the chair.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:30 P.M. Mayor Graham asked the City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing Concerning Amending City Charter of the City of Watertown, Title VII, Departments of Water; Electric Light and Power, and Section 301 of the City Code of the City of Watertown Water

Mayor Graham declared the hearing open at 7:30 P. M.

No one addressed the chair.

Mayor Graham declared the hearing closed at 7:30 P.M.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Approving Agreement with Systems Development Group for Continuing Image Mate Online Assessment Software Support

Introduced by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns

WHEREAS the City of Watertown provides web-based access to real property information within the City on our website, and

WHEREAS the information include sales history, property owner information, property tax information and individual structure characteristics, and

WHEREAS this web-based delivery system provided by Systems Development Group benefits property owners, real-estate firms, tax attorneys and departmental staff who require this information on a regular basis on-demand, and

WHEREAS SDG has provided software supports of this system since May 2005, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown wishes to maintain the annual software support provided by Systems Development Group to preserve the real property on-line service,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement between the City of Watertown and Systems Development Group, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Mary M. Corriveau, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.

Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Butler inquired about the prior costs incurred for Customer Induced Problem Support and Custom Enhancements.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that there were no costs associated with Customer Enhancements but she was unsure of the prior costs of Customer Induced Problem Support. She stated that her understanding is that the base amount has remained the same. She also clarified that the proposed agreement for the 3rd year is \$1,100.

Council Member Butler asked for the City Assessor's opinion of the software.

Mrs. Corriveau confirmed that the City Assessor supports this software and that it is being used at the County and State level. She added it allows the information to be accessed by the public.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 2 - Approving Agreement of Lease Between the City of Watertown and the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns the property known as Thompson Park, located in the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc. desires to lease certain premises located at Thompson Park for the operation of the Thompson Park Zoo, and the City is willing to lease the same to the Conservancy under the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Lease Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement of Lease between the City of Watertown and the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc., in connection with the operation of the Thompson Park Zoo, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 3 - Amendment to Lease Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Greater Watertown Red and Black, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

WHEREAS the City is a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York and, as such, owns a facility known as the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds within the City of Watertown, and the Fairgrounds are a community recreational facility, and

WHEREAS the City desires to promote future recreational activities at the Fairgrounds for the valid public purpose of the benefit, recreation, entertainment, amusement, convenience and welfare of the people of the City, and

WHEREAS in pursuit of that public purpose, the City desires to contract for the use, operations, management and maintenance of the Fairgrounds multi-purpose field and all football-related activities, and

WHEREAS the Greater Watertown Red and Black, Inc. owns and operates a football team as a member and franchise of the Empire Football League, and

WHEREAS Greater Watertown Red and Black, Inc. desires to have its team, Red and Black, play football games within the confines of the Fairgrounds, and

WHEREAS in furtherance of this desire the City of Watertown and the Watertown Red & Black entered into a Lease Agreement effective April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2013, and

WHEREAS the Watertown Red & Black has asked, and the City has agreed to switch the locker rooms used by the Red & Black under the terms of the Lease Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown approves the Amendment to Lease Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Greater

Watertown Red and Black, Inc., a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Mary M. Corriveau, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.

Seconded by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 4 - Authorizing Sale of Real Property, Known as 333 Kendall Avenue North to Jefferson County, 175 Arsenal Street, Watertown, New York 13601

Introduced by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith

WHEREAS there has heretofore been bid in by the City of Watertown at a tax sale a certain lot of land known as 333 Kendall Avenue North, approximately 50' x 125' in size, and also known and designated on the map of the Department of Assessment and Taxation of the City of Watertown, New York as Parcel No. 08-34-220.000, and

WHEREAS title to said land has since been retained by the City of Watertown as acquired at said tax sale, which title was retained by reason of the failure of anyone to redeem the same, and

WHEREAS said real property has never been assigned by the Council for a public use, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to ensure that properties such as this property be brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Construction Codes, as defined by Watertown City Code Chapter 120, and the Code of the City of Watertown within one (1) year from the date of delivery of the quit claim deed of their sale to subsequent buyers,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 23, Subdivision (b) of the General City Law, Section 247 of the Charter of the City of Watertown as amended by Local Law No. 1, 1985, adopted December 3, 1984, effective January 17, 1985, and the ordinance, Municipal Code, Chapter 16 adopted by the Council on June 6, 1977, that the offer of \$1.00 submitted by Jefferson County for the purchase of Parcel No. 08-34-220.000, is a fair and reasonable offer therefore and the same is hereby accepted, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Jeffrey E. Graham, be and he hereby is authorized, empowered and directed to execute and deliver a Quit Claim Deed of said real property to Jefferson County upon receipt of the above mentioned sum of money in cash only by the City Comptroller, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the deed issued by the City contain a provision that if the property sold is not brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Construction Codes, as defined by Watertown City Code Chapter 120, and the Code of the City of Watertown within one (1) year from the date of delivery of the quit claim deed of their sale to

subsequent buyers, the City shall have the right to seek and be entitled to receive reversion of title to the premises to the City.

Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Graham asked for clarification as to the location of this property.

Mrs. Corriveau stated that all of these are straight parcels up near the college and that there are two Clover Streets in Watertown.

Mayor Graham mentioned that these are parcels near land owned by the college and gives the college the opportunity for expansion.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 5 - Authorizing Sale of Real Property, Known as 334 Kendall Avenue North to Jefferson County, 175 Arsenal Street, Watertown, New York 13601

Introduced by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith

WHEREAS there has heretofore been bid in by the City of Watertown at a tax sale a certain lot of land known as 334 Kendall Avenue North, approximately 50' x 100' in size, and also known and designated on the map of the Department of Assessment and Taxation of the City of Watertown, New York as Parcel No. 08-34-219.000, and

WHEREAS title to said land has since been retained by the City of Watertown as acquired at said tax sale, which title was retained by reason of the failure of anyone to redeem the same, and

WHEREAS said real property has never been assigned by the Council for a public use, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to ensure that properties such as this property be brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Construction Codes, as defined by Watertown City Code Chapter 120, and the Code of the City of Watertown within one (1) year from the date of delivery of the quit claim deed of their sale to subsequent buyers,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 23, Subdivision (b) of the General City Law, Section 247 of the Charter of the City of Watertown as amended by Local Law No. 1, 1985, adopted December 3, 1984, effective January 17, 1985, and the ordinance, Municipal Code, Chapter 16 adopted by the Council on June 6, 1977, that the offer of \$1.00 submitted by Jefferson County for the purchase of Parcel No. 08-34-219.000, is a fair and reasonable offer therefore and the same is hereby accepted, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Jeffrey E. Graham, be and he hereby is

authorized, empowered and directed to execute and deliver a Quit Claim Deed of said real property to Jefferson County upon receipt of the above mentioned sum of money in cash only by the City Comptroller, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the deed issued by the City contain a provision that if the property sold is not brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Construction Codes, as defined by Watertown City Code Chapter 120, and the Code of the City of Watertown within one (1) year from the date of delivery of the quit claim deed of their sale to subsequent buyers, the City shall have the right to seek and be entitled to receive reversion of title to the premises to the City.

Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 6 - Authorizing Sale of Real Property, Known as 335 Clover Street to Jefferson County, 175 Arsenal Street, Watertown, New York 13601

Introduced by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith

WHEREAS there has heretofore been bid in by the City of Watertown at a tax sale a certain lot of land known as 335 Clover Street, approximately 50' x 100' in size, and also known and designated on the map of the Department of Assessment and Taxation of the City of Watertown, New York as Parcel No. 08-34-218.000, and

WHEREAS title to said land has since been retained by the City of Watertown as acquired at said tax sale, which title was retained by reason of the failure of anyone to redeem the same, and

WHEREAS said real property has never been assigned by the Council for a public use, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to ensure that properties such as this property be brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Construction Codes, as defined by Watertown City Code Chapter 120, and the Code of the City of Watertown within one (1) year from the date of delivery of the quit claim deed of their sale to subsequent buyers,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 23, Subdivision (b) of the General City Law, Section 247 of the Charter of the City of Watertown as amended by Local Law No. 1, 1985, adopted December 3, 1984, effective January 17, 1985, and the ordinance, Municipal Code, Chapter 16 adopted by the Council on June 6, 1977, that the offer of \$1.00 submitted by Jefferson County for the purchase of Parcel No. 08-34-218.000, is a fair and reasonable offer therefore and the same is hereby accepted, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Jeffrey E. Graham, be and he hereby is authorized, empowered and directed to execute and deliver a Quit Claim Deed of said real property to Jefferson County upon receipt of the above mentioned sum of money in cash only by the City Comptroller, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the deed issued by the City contain a provision that if the property sold is not brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Construction Codes, as defined by Watertown City Code Chapter 120, and the Code of the City of Watertown within one (1) year from the date of delivery of the quit claim deed of their sale to subsequent buyers, the City shall have the right to seek and be entitled to receive reversion of title to the premises to the City.

Introduced by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting yea.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1 - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of Hydroelectric Facilities and Related Properties Along the Black River to Waterfront District in Order to Implement the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

Introduced by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.

BE IT ORDAINED where certain changes to Zoning District boundaries are required in order to implement the City of Watertown's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, and

WHEREAS City Staff have submitted a request to change the approved zoning classification of hydroelectric facilities and related properties along the Black River to Waterfront District, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown considered the zone change at its meeting held on March 6, 2012, and adopted a motion recommending that the City Council approve the zone changes as requested, and

WHEREAS the City Council deems it in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Watertown to approve the requested zone change, and

WHEREAS a public hearing was held on the proposed zone change on April 2, 2012, after due public notice, and

WHEREAS the City Council has made a declaration of Negative Findings of the impacts of the proposed zone change according to the requirements of SEQRA,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the zoning classification of each of the parcels in the following list is hereby changed to **Waterfront District**:

3-01-120	208 Moulton Street
3-01-120.001	214 Moulton Street
3-01-122.001	VL-1 Moulton Street
4-12-102	300 Pearl Street
4-23-101	95-115 Water Street

5-07-701	VL-5 Huntington Street
5-26-203.001	VL-7 Huntington Street
6-01-101	250 Mill Street
6-05-305	VL-9 Fairbanks Street
6-12-501	1133 Huntington Street
7-01-301.003	201 Rear Mill Street
7-01-302	VL-1 Mill Street
7-01-302.001	201 Rear Mill Street

And,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Zoning Map of the City of Watertown shall be amended to reflect these changes, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Watertown shall take effect as soon as it is published once in the official newspaper of the City of Watertown, or printed as the City Manager directs.

Seconded by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns

Motion was made by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. to schedule a Public Hearing on the foregoing ordinance for Monday, April 2, 2012 at 7:30 P.M. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

LOCAL LAW

Local Law No. 1 of 2012 – “Amending City Charter of the City of Watertown, Title VII, Departments of Water; Electric Light and Power, and Section 301 of the City Code of the City of Watertown Water” *(Introduced on March 5, 2012; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety on page 60 of the 2012 Minutes Book).*

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing local law and carried with all voting yea.

DISCUSSIONS

2012 CDBG Small Cities Application Public Hearings

Mayor Graham mentioned that it is staff’s suggestion to schedule public hearings regarding the 2012 CDBG Small Cities Application.

Motion was made by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, April 2, 2012 and Monday, May 7, 2012 at 7:30 P.M. to hear public input on the 2012 CDBG Small Cities Application.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

NYS Legislature Approves, NYS Retirement system Tier VI Pension Plan

Mayor Graham stated that he went to Albany this week along with other mayors across the state to thank the Governor for his efforts in pushing this through. He summarized that it does not include everything that everyone wanted but it sets a transition to some kind of defined contribution system by municipal employees.

Sales Tax Revenue – February 2012

Mayor Graham remarked that the sales tax report shows that it is up a little bit.

2012-2012 CAPC City Budget Request

Council Member Smith stated that this should wait until budget season.

Mrs. Corriveau noted that if this waits until budget season then she needs some direction from Council for appropriation amounts. She stated that last year CAPC asked the City for a \$52,000 appropriation plus a \$10,000 onetime lump sum. She wondered if she should budget the \$62,000 as she did last year or the base amount of \$52,000.

Council concurred that the base amount of \$52,000 should be put in the budget because the \$10,000 was to be a onetime lump sum.

Mayor Graham urged Council to go visit the CAPC to obtain a better understanding of what the organization has to offer to the community.

History of Advantage Watertown

A report was given to Council regarding the history of the creation of Advantage Watertown.

Council Member Smith stated that he is not against the people volunteering but Council acts by resolution and he wonders where the resolution is that created this committee. He said his concern is that the committee is utilizing city tax payers' dollars via staff time but there is no legislative oversight because they appoint their own members and there is no interaction with Council. He questioned what their role is and to whom do they advise.

Mayor Graham stated that this committee grew out of various state initiatives and Council may not have approved Advantage Watertown specifically by a resolution but approved the framework for it.

John Bartow, Chairman of Advantage Watertown stated that the creation of the committee predated his service but it is required by the contract program's rules and regulations to have

some form of an advisory body. He noted that the only active contract at this point is the LWRP and that the Quality Community contract has expired.

Council Member Burns asked if the City is still required to have a LWRP committee.

Mr. Bartow replied that it is required as long as there is an open contract.

Kenneth Mix, Planning and Community Development Coordinator noted the City has one open contract for the completion of the LWRP but he has submitted the paperwork for the last payment request. In regards to a resolution for the creation of Advantage Watertown, he stated that he reported to Council everything that he could find.

Mr. Bartow stated that the by-laws of Advantage Watertown that have been in existence since 2004, state its purpose is to seek and sustain economic and social prosperity of the community. He added that the entire Council is invited to the meeting and receives copies of the minutes so there is constant communication and an open invitation to Council to participate. He commented that they advise whoever attends the meetings and picks up on discussion. He noted that they have communicated to Council by memorandum in regards to housing initiatives and other projects that they feel should advance. He mentioned that the committee is advising more than just City Council and explained that members talk to other business people about projects being done in the City and relays the feedback to the City.

Mrs. Corriveau mentioned that Advantage Watertown played a role in facilitating a meeting with the Neighbors of Watertown and the Watertown Local Development Board with the Franklin Building Redevelopment. She stated that Advantage Watertown took on the role of mediator because they saw the project as important.

Mrs. Corriveau and Mr. Bartow confirmed for Council Member Smith that Advantage Watertown's role is to advise City staff, Council and anyone that takes an interest in a project that affects the City of Watertown.

Council Member Smith reiterated his concern for a resolution.

Robert Slye, City Counsel explained that Council promised the State of New York that there would be a committee in order to obtain grant money. He remarked that Council would not want to indicate that this obligation was not met because there was never a resolution because this may cause the State of New York to ask for their money back. He clarified that Council approved this committee by approving several contracts with the State of New York in which Council promised to form such a committee. He stated there is no point in doing a resolution because they formed a committee that met the obligation of the State and added that this is no different then forming the Tree Committee, the Zoo Committee that became the Thompson Park Conservatory and the River Committee. He stressed that these committees were not formed by a resolution of City Council but by interested people who wanted to give their time.

Council Member Smith wanted to know if other committees would be able to come to City Hall monthly and get staff support and input and he gave the Downtown Business Association (DBA) as an example.

Mrs. Corriveau mentioned that the DBA does get staff input and staff members attend their meetings. She told Council that Christine Hoffman used to attend their meetings and now Mike Lumbis works with the DBA.

Attorney Slye stated that the City Manager is authorized to assign staff to projects that she thinks are worth the City staff's time.

Mayor Graham suggested that a resolution be drafted for the next City Council to affirm Council's support of Advantage Watertown and its monthly interaction since there is concern that this was not properly authorized.

Council Member Smith remarked that this is the first time that he was aware that he is invited to the meetings and he did not know that they were advising Council. He indicated that since the City's attorney feels that a resolution is not necessary then there is no need to draw up a resolution.

Mayor Graham stated that due to this discussion some members of this committee are wondering if their efforts are appreciated and valued by Council. He said that there is value in affirming this.

Council Member Burns stated that she understands the original intent of the committee and pointed out that originally Council, instead of the committee, appointed the members. She stressed that the committee is not elected by the people of Watertown where as Council is. She also mentioned that her job does not allow her the time to go to the meetings and she appreciates the hard work of the volunteers. She said there is a lot of merit to round table discussion with community members and feels there needs to be a closer working relationship. She suggested having a formalized meeting between Advantage Watertown and Council twice a year.

Mr. Bartow replied that Advantage Watertown would welcome a stronger relationship with Council. He suggested reviewing the appointment process and by-laws and stated that the committee is undergoing a strategic process to develop a new focus.

Mayor Graham suggested having a joint meeting after the budget process is completed.

Irish Festival

Council Member Butler wanted to commend and thank the organizers for their hard work in making this a successful event.

Moffet Street Traffic

Council Member Butler asked for a status report on the issue of the dead end on Moffet Street being used as a thoroughfare.

Mrs. Corriveau stated that she asked DPW and the Police to look into this and Mr. Hayes did have some conversations with Ms. Collins' mother. She said that she is still waiting for the plan of action.

Council Member Butler suggested the City put concrete barriers in place at the dead end.

Intersection of Holcomb and Flower Avenue West

In response to Council Member Smith's inquiry for an update, Mrs. Corriveau stated the Mr. Hauk is investigating and will be reporting to Council.

Franklin Street

Council Member Smith mentioned that he has seen several green garbage cans lined up on the sidewalk of Franklin Street near the intersection with Public Square.

Mrs. Corriveau indicated that her understanding is that they put them there the day before pickup.

Clock Tower Lights

Mayor Graham stated Council received a request to display blue lights in the Clock Tower on April 2nd for Autism Awareness Day. He asked if Council wants to continue to indulge with these requests or to leave it to the judgment of staff.

Council Member Macaluso stated that Council is going to now receive a lot of requests and City staff should not be going up into the tower every week to change the lights. She suggested charging a fee that would cover the cost of the City staff's time.

Mayor Graham commented that the clock was not meant to be an advertising vehicle and the City spent a lot of money to get it working. He also noted that the last request was for blue and now this request is for blue but for a different reason. He indicated that the comments he has received is that the City should shy away from this and leave the lights white.

Council Member Burns stated that Council should decide on a policy for changing the lights but she does not feel this can be done without further discussion. She agreed with Council Member Macaluso in that every other week there is going to be another request for a different color for a different meaning.

Mrs. Corriveau pointed out that her first response on the matter after receiving the prior requests is that the City should not go down this road. She stressed that what is now happening will

continue to happen. She said that groups look at this as a way to bring awareness to their cause but is not sure if this is the role of City government or the role of the clock tower.

Council Member Macaluso mentioned that Council could run into a situation in which there is a request from a group that Council does not want to represent. She added that if other requests are honored then there is an obligation to approve all of them.

Council Member Burns stated that as a body, Council needs to step back and decide if all or none of the requests should be honored and cannot just pick and chose. She added Council will descend down a slippery slope if it picks and chooses. She advised that Council needs to be respectful of the Baptism Church and take in account Reverend Jeffrey Smith's perspective even though the City has taken over the operation of the clock. She indicated that she is not prepared to make a decision tonight because Council needs to consider the ramification before it quickly indulges in another request.

Mrs. Corriveau mentioned that she will be meeting with former City Court Judge Harberson and Reverend Smith to discuss the issues surrounding the clock tower. She stated that Judge Harberson is representing the Baptism church.

Mayor Graham stated that it would be appropriate to decline this request.

Council Member Butler reminded Council that it is the City Manager's call on these requests and she was good enough to accommodate the green light request. He stated that Council should not be voting on these requests because that is not the process.

Mayor Graham suggested that Council set a policy indicating which events are appropriate for changing the lighting in the clock. He did add that at Christmas time it was nice to see the red and green lights in the clock but did not think it would lead to this.

Council Member Burns reminded Council that with the Irish Festival the City Manager originally denied the request but after political pressure it was approved. She stated that Council is putting staff in an unfair position if sometimes it is their determination but other times like the Irish Festival, Council decides.

Council Member Butler stated that the City could send a letter in support of Autism but the City is not in a position to put the lights up. He commented that there are certain events throughout the year that promotes downtown such as the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Irish Festival and warrants changing the lights in the clock. He added that the feedback that he received was very positive.

Council Member Macaluso inquired if the fountain could be lit with different colors.

Mrs. Corriveau pointed out that there is no water running through the fountain at this time of the year.

Mayor Graham reiterated that Council needs to define which events would be appropriate to change the lights of the clock.

Tennis Courts at Thompson Park

Mayor Graham suggested that in light of the nice weather, the nets be put up on the tennis court at Thompson Park.

City Manager Recruitment

Mayor Graham mentioned that Council adjourned the meeting until next Monday in order to have an executive session with Attorney Slye to discuss appointing an interim City Manager during the recruitment process.

Parks and Recreation Fees

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that she would like to discuss the fees for the Parks and Recreation Department prior to Mr. VanBrocklin's departure. She suggested adding this topic to the agenda for the adjourned meeting.

Letter for Concerned Citizen

A letter from a Citizen concerned about the alternative to marijuana called "Spice," "K2," and "Legal Phunk" was available for Council.

Development Authority of the North Country

A notice from the Development Authority of the North Country listing the 2012 & 2013 HOME Program Awards was available for Council's review.

Motion was made by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns to move into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:00 P.M.

Council reconvened at 8:30 P.M.

A D J O U R N M E N T

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:30 P.M. to Monday March 26, 2012 by motion of Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr., seconded by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ann M. Saunders
City Clerk